

REMARKS

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues in any of the claims now pending in the application, the Examiner should telephone Mr. Peter L. Michaelson, Esq. at (732) 530-6671 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Specification and title amendments

Various amendments have been made to the specification and title to correct a minor inadvertent typographical error and to conform the title to the invention as now claimed.

Status of claims

Claims 1-56 have now been canceled and replaced with new claims 57-93.

Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 17, 19, 21-25 and 51-54 under the provisions of 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by the teachings in the Hoshi application (published Japanese patent application 09-130668 for which the Examiner has provided an English-language abstract).

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The Examiner has also rejected claims 2, 14, 15, 32-34, 39, 42-44 and 48-50 under the provisions of 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the teachings in the Hoshi application taken in view of those in the Nisikawa patent (US patent 5,821,995 issued to H. Nisikawa on October 13, 1998).

Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 35-38, 45-47 and 56 under the provisions of 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the teachings in the Hoshi application taken in view of those in the Nisikawa patent and further in view of those in the Briand et al patent (US patent 4,191,969 issued to M. K. Briand et al on March 4, 1980).

Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claims 8, 26-29 and 55 under the provisions of 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the teachings in the Hoshi application taken in view of those in the Briand et al patent.

Lastly, the Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 30 under the provisions of 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the teachings in the Hoshi application.

Inasmuch as the Applicant has now canceled claims 1-56, all these rejections are moot.

Conclusion


The Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both

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reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to
issue are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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